IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A clinician documentation system for use with a computer processor comprising:

a computer-readable medium encoding a selection option mechanism eliciting additional documentation medical coding information regarding a patient encounter to better support and define the principle diagnosis and other related diagnoses through the analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria as needed for appropriate DRG (Diagnosis Related Group) assignment, said selection option mechanism comprising an elicitation database that requests targeted information and additional documentation regarding the patient encounter based upon the predetermined criteria found within the clinician-entered information; and

storage means for storing said additional documentation the medical coding information for later access.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said storage means for recording inputted predetermined criteria, entered information and conclusions thereof into a database.

3. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said selection option mechanism is a software program.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said selection option mechanism includes at least one of data addition means for adding information and data substituting means for substituting information.

6. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said selection option mechanism includes an elicitation database for suggesting information for medical codes, alternative conclusions, and predetermined criteria to support the conclusions.

7. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein said selection option mechanism includes eliciting conclusions selected from the group consisting of medical payment codes, billing codes, treatment codes, and service codes.

8. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said selection option mechanism includes analysis of predetermined criteria input wherein the criteria includes phrases, words, numbers and symbols relating to the conclusions.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 utilized on a device selected from the group consisting of hand-held devices, portable computers, desktop computers, wireless devices, web-based technology systems, touch screen devices, typing devices, and electronic devices.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said system further includes accuracy confirming means for confirming the accuracy of previously entered information.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including searching means for locating words and phrases.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including linking means for linking to a listing and description of predetermined criteria.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including free-text entry means for entering text into said system.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including security means for restricting access to said system.

15. (Currently amended) A software program for use with a computer processor for providing additional documentation medical coding information regarding a patient encounter to better support and define the principle diagnosis and other related diagnoses to better support and define the principle diagnosis and other related diagnoses, said program comprising a computer-readable medium encoding a selection option mechanism eliciting additional

documentation to support a diagnosis ~~information for medical codes~~ through analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria input_as needed for appropriate DRG (Diagnosis Related Group) assignment, said selection option mechanism comprising an elicitation database that requests targeted information_and additional documentation regarding the patient encounter based upon the predetermined criteria found within the clinician-entered information; and

storage means for storing the medical coding information for later access.

16. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 15, being accessible through communication systems selected from the group consisting of the Internet, Intranet, Extranet, and electronically.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 16, wherein said selection option mechanism includes at least one of data addition means for adding information and data substituting means for substituting information.

19. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 16, wherein said selection option mechanism includes an elicitation data base for suggesting at least one of accurate conclusions, alternative conclusions, and needed criteria to support the conclusions.

20. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 16, wherein said selection option mechanism includes eliciting conclusions selected from the group consisting of medical payment codes, billing codes, treatment codes, and service codes.

21. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 16, wherein said selection option mechanism includes analysis of predetermined criteria input wherein the criteria includes phrases, words, numbers and symbols relating to the conclusions.

22. (Original) The software program according to claim 15, wherein said software further includes accuracy confirming means for confirming the accuracy of previously entered information.

23. (Original) The software program according to claim 15, wherein said software further includes security means for restricting access to said software.

24. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including searching means for locating words and phrases.

25. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including linking means for linking to a listing and description of predetermined criteria.

26. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including free-text entry means for entering text into said system.

Claims 27-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A clinician documentation method for use with a computer processor comprising the steps of using a selection option mechanism encoded on a computer-readable medium to elicit additional documentation regarding a patient encounter to better support and define the principle diagnosis and other related diagnoses medical coding information through the analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria and subsequent augmenting of the entered information therein as needed for appropriate DRG (Diagnosis Related Group) assignment, said selection option mechanism comprising an elicitation database that requests targeted information and additional documentation regarding the patient encounter based upon the predetermined criteria found within the clinician-entered information; and

storage means for storing said additional documentation the medical coding information for later access.